

Harris County HCPHES

Public Health & Environmental Services

Herminia Palacio, M.D., M.P.H.
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Vote of the Court:	Yes	No	Abstain
Judge Emmett	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Lee	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Garcia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Radack	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Eversole	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dawn D. Blackmar, D.V.M.
Division Director
Veterinary Public Health
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Houston TX 77076
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Fax: (281) 847-1911

September 6, 2007

The Honorable Judge Ed Emmett
and Commissioners Court
Harris County Administration Building
1001 Preston Avenue, Room 911
Houston, Texas 77002

Presented to Commissioner's Court

SEP 25 2007

APPROVE LJE

Recorded Vol. _____ Page _____

Dear Court Members:

Enclosed are revisions to the Harris County Animal Regulations reflecting the laws enacted by the 80th session of the Texas Legislature. Specifically, the amendments prohibit the sale of live animals from roadsides and parking lots and regulate the restraint of dogs. Additionally, we are proposing revisions to the existing fine and fee structure. These changes are consistent with our strategy to create a community of responsible pet owners. For example, increased impoundment fines will encourage pet owners to keep their pets confined and allowing a differential in licensing fees will encourage spay/neuter. An overall increase in boarding fees is necessary help offset the costs involved in the housing and care of impounded animals. Moreover, we are proposing price differential in boarding fees for biting animals and dangerous dogs. A summary of the existing fees and proposed fees are:

FEE/FINE	CURRENT FEE	PROPOSED FEE
1 st Impoundment: vaccinated, licensed, altered, with ID	\$0	\$0
1 st impoundment altered	\$25	\$30
1 st Impoundment – all others	\$35	\$40
2 nd Impoundment	\$50	\$80
3 rd Impoundment	\$100	\$120
Impoundment for a biting animal		Add \$35 to impound fee
Boarding – per day/partial day	\$8	\$10
Boarding – biting animal	\$8	\$12
Boarding – dangerous dog or pending hearing	\$8	\$12
License – 1 year unaltered	\$15	\$25
License - Lifetime – pet altered or senior citizen owner	\$15	\$15
License – 3 yr. - unaltered	\$45	\$75
License Tag – replacement	\$3	\$5
Rabies Vaccination	\$8	\$10
Microchip – Adopted Pet	\$15	\$20
Microchip – Owned Pet	\$25	\$30
Placement Partner transfer fee	\$23	\$25

Adoption prices at animal shelters are usually based on the supply of and demand for pets. For example, there is less of a demand for large dogs so a local shelter currently charges \$65 for a large dog and \$95 for a small dog or puppy. Our current adoption fees of \$65/dog and \$60/cat (with the option of a 2nd cat at no charge) are well below the community average \$84/dog and \$79/cat. We are proposing new adoption fees of \$80/dog, \$70/cat (maintaining the 2 for 1 option) and \$65 if the adopter is senior citizen i.e. 55 years or older.

Finally, throughout the document the name "Animal Control" or "Animal Control Division" has been changed to Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services (HCPHES VPH).

If approved, the amended regulations will become effective October 1, 2007. If you have any questions please contact Dr. Dawn Blackmar at 281/999-8253.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'H. Palacio', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Herminia Palacio, M.D., M.P.H.
Executive Director

HP:cma

HARRIS COUNTY
MANAGEMENT SERVICES
07 SEP 16 PM 12:40

THE STATE OF TEXAS

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COUNTY OF HARRIS

The Commissioners Court of Harris County, Texas, convened at a meeting of said Court at the Harris County Administration Building in Houston, Texas, on the ____ day of SEP 25 2007, 2007, with the following members present, to-wit:

Ed Emmett	County Judge
El Franco Lee	Commissioner, Precinct No. 1
Sylvia R. Garcia	Commissioner, Precinct No. 2
Steve Radack	Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
Jerry Eversole	Commissioner, Precinct No. 4

and the following members absent, to wit: NONE,
constituting a quorum, when among other business, the following was transacted:

ORDER AUTHORIZING AMENDMENTS
TO THE HARRIS COUNTY ANIMAL REGULATIONS

Commissioner Lee introduced an Order and made a motion that the same be adopted. Commissioner Eversole seconded the motion for adoption of the order. The motion, carrying with it the adoption of the Order, prevailed by the following vote:

	Yes	No	Abstain
Judge Emmett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Lee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Garcia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Radack	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Eversole	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The County Judge thereupon announced that the motion had duly and lawfully carried and that the Order had been duly and lawfully adopted. The Order thus adopted follows:

RECITALS

Pursuant to Chapters 821, 822, and 826 of the Texas Health and Safety Code and section 285.001 of the Transportation Code, Harris County Commissioners Court is authorized to adopt Harris County Animal Regulations. Harris County Commissioners Court desires to amend the Harris County Animal Regulations.

Presented to Commissioner's Court

SEP 25 2007

APPROVE _____

Recorded Vol. _____ Page _____

**NOW, THEREFORE,
BE IT ORDERED BY THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF HARRIS COUNTY,
TEXAS THAT:**

Section 1: The recitals set forth in this Order are true and correct.

Section 2: The Harris County Animal Control Regulations are amended as set out in the amended Harris County Animal Regulations, which is incorporated by reference and made a part of this Order as if set out in full word for word.